



# POTENTIAL PROJECTS – OAKDALE & WEST SAYVILLE

## **Project # 1- INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY: ENSURING SAFE ROAD ACCESS**

**Project Category:** *Infrastructure*

*Summary:*

- *Raise Roads*
- *Complete Streets*
- *Green Drainage Design*

**Brief Project Description:** *Significant portions of Oakdale, West Sayville and the Green’s Creek corridor (including the Sayville side) are developed at very low elevations, often within a few feet of sea level. During storm events, many roads are flooded and are often impassable. This presents a significant threat to public safety affecting both evacuation functions as well as emergency response. This project would specifically identify the vulnerable road sections and would set priorities for raising pavement levels. It would also address the related issues of drainage and utilities. From this a program would be developed to fund and implement the project.*

**Project Benefits:** *The community would benefit from more reliable access and egress and, potentially, higher property values. This is both a public safety and quality of life benefit. Further, the project would be designed with the intent to accommodate a ‘Complete Streets’ program that would accommodate pedestrian and bicycle modes of transportation. Further, the project would seek to accommodate road runoff using natural bio filtration techniques.*





**Project # 2- STORM PREPARATION IMPROVEMENTS**

**Primary Project Category:** *Community Planning and Capacity Building*

*Summary:*

- *Evacuation Routes and Local Shelter Designations*
- *Educate Residents on Preparedness*
- *Effective Communications*

**Brief Project Description:** *Develop an action plan and implement storm preparation programs to reach all residents, especially vulnerable populations. In support of this effort, the Committee supports the update of the Town of Islip’s Emergency Management Plan as a priority action.*

**Project Benefits:** *The unpredictable nature of many storm events requires that the communities of Oakdale and West Sayville be prepared for a variety of risk situations. Plans and programs must be in place well before an event occurs and must be communicated to residents in a clear and timely manner. This should include regular information messages, permanent signage (e.g., evacuation routes) , pre-event warnings and post-storm (immediate and longer term) guidance.*



**Project # 3- Flood Damage Mitigation with Environmental and Recreational Enhancements**

**Primary Project Categories:** *Infrastructure and Natural & Cultural Resources*

*Summary:*

- *Reduce Impacts of Storm Surges*
- *Improve Tidal Exchange with Wetlands*
- *Create Recreational Hiking Path along top of Levee*

**Brief project Description:** *The Grand Canal was constructed in the early phase of the development of the Idle Hour neighborhood of Oakdale and was an open road called Central Boulevard. It remains a mapped road. A levee was created by the excavation of the canal through an area of wetlands that was characteristic of this part of Oakdale. As the excavated material was removed, some of it was deposited along the side of the canal to form the present day levee. The levee extends for over a half a mile and separates the canal from a large tract of wetlands to the east. The wetlands are owned*



by New York State and are under the jurisdiction of Department of Environmental Conservation. At the present time there is some tidal exchange between the canal and the wetlands but it is limited. It is proposed to increase the tidal exchange to an appropriate level (to be determined) and to also allow for water to overflow from the canal into the wetlands during storm surges. Further, it is proposed to utilize the top of the levee as a recreational hiking path.

**Project Benefits:** *There are several potential benefits of the project to the community. First, is the potential reduction in the impact of future storm surges through the use of the State wetlands to accommodate the flooding within the wetlands. Secondly, the project could also help to restore the wetlands to a more naturally functioning system with regular tidal exchange. Lastly, the project also represents an opportunity to improve public recreational opportunities in the area through the development of a low impact trail on the top of the levee. This could also be a segment of the proposed South Shore Gold Coast Trail, a larger system of trails and bike paths that would feature the historical and environmental assets of the communities.*



**Project # 4- INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE WATERFRONT AND PROVIDE STORM SURGE BUFFER**

**Primary Project Category:** *Natural and Cultural Resources*

*Summary:*

- *Increase Public Access to the Waterfront*
- *Improve/ Restore Coastal Shoreline*
- *Provide Storm Surge Buffers/ Retention Areas*

For more information on NY Rising Program, visit us at [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov)



**Brief Project Description:** *The Extreme Risk Area includes many developed properties that are subject to frequent and severe flooding and repetitive losses. Many of the properties are residential homes. There are also a limited number of vacant, undeveloped properties in the Extreme Risk Area. The project would be twofold: the conversion of developed sites that are identified for buyouts into vacant lots and the acquisition of undeveloped parcels to avoid future development that would be highly vulnerable to storm damage. The buy outs would be on a voluntary basis. Once acquired, the lots would be retained in public ownership and limited in use. Possible uses could be retention areas for stormwater/ runoff storage, wetlands restoration, coastal protection and public access to the waterfront.*

**Community Benefits:** *The benefits to the community would include the removal of structures in the Extreme Risk Area, the avoidance of potentially dangerous emergency response during storm events , the improvement of the coastal environment and the enhancement of public access to the waterfront.*



**WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT: SEWAGE TREATMENT**

**Primary Project Category: Infrastructure**

*Summary:*

- *Tertiary Level of Waste Water Treatment*
- *Improved Water Quality*
- *Improved Condition of the Marine Environment*
- *Enhanced Capacity for Economic Development including in the Downtowns*



**Brief Project Description:** *Both Oakdale and West Sayville are communities that are characterized by low elevations relative to sea level and high elevations relative to groundwater. In fact, much of the planning area south of Montauk Highway is within four feet of sea level with groundwater often a few feet below the surface. In addition, the area does not have a centralized sewer system and most developed properties rely upon on-site wastewater disposal. These are in the form of cesspools or septic tanks with leaching pools. The proposed project would involve the construction of a tertiary wastewater collection and treatment system with the subsequent discontinuance of the onsite systems.*

**Community Benefits:** *The project would provide several significant benefits. It would greatly improve water quality both in groundwater and in the surrounding surface waters. Such improvement is vital to the long term health of the Connetquot River and the Great South Bay, both of which are part of the State designated South Shore Estuary Reserve and both of which are adversely affected by high levels of wastewater discharge. It would also remove a major impediment to the implementation of the Town of Islip's Vision Plan for Oakdale that depends on the availability of sewers to achieve a compact, mixed-use downtown.*

